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Gibson

illustration

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銀河戦記の

実弾兵器

《アンリミテッド》

バトル・オブ・
アルファ

02



OVERLAP

Me, Her, and the Ballistic Weaponry Antique

Boku to Kanojo to Jitsudan Heiki (Antique)

Arc 2

by Fujimaru

[Novel Updates](#)

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Chapter 32

——“Warning the neural system beyond is out of range”——

A red warning sign appeared on the upper display of the BISHOP. “Thanks for the warning,” Tarou said as he closed the display and did the final checks on the overdrive gear.

“Koume, what’s the expected margin of error after jump?”

“Yes, it’s around 34,000 kilometers at max, mister Teirow.”

“Got it. Maar, How’s the overdrive? It looks pretty good to me”

“The engines are warmed up so it’s in perfect condition. I think there’s no way for it to lose its way.”

Tarou squints his eyes at the new monitor that he made himself and checked the number of radioactive rays, the existence of any moving obstacle and such. He then made some slight adjustments after taking note of the effects these would bring to the BISHOP. As the time limit for jumping in the stargate presses, falling out ships who probably miscalculated their jump, can be seen at the huge monitor on the wall behind Tarou.

“In the end, almost half didn’t make it. Though they’ll probably try again at the jump that’ll be happening an hour from now, I still feel a bit sorry for them.”

Maar murmured as she looks up at the huge monitor.

“yeah, since they’ll be paying the fee two times..... No, depending on the situation, it still might not work even after trying for two times.”

The destination of their jump by the stargate in front of them is a place where, as what the warning had started earlier, it’s outside of the communication range of the neural network. Of course, even beacons (radio signals) won’t reach, so the coordinates of the jump destination needs to be done by each ships on their own.

“Thinking of the consequences if we fail; being cautious doesn’t hurt.”

“Yes, indeed you are right, mister Teirow. Because if not, we will end up being

lost in space, which is really stupid.”

“Well the pivot of the stargate is a huge acceleration device so-..... wait, for your information, my thing is a juggernaut, got it?!”

Tarou squints his eyes as his field of vision gradually gets dyed in blue. Just what Koume said, if the coordinates are miscalculated, the overdrive will accelerate from hundreds to thousands of times by the stargate and this will result into jumping to a wrong location. Although they have done this without any problem for several times already, this so-called cross-boundary jump has always caused Tarou pain in his stomach.

——“Verifying Jump drive”——

Their field of vision was slowly dyed in white as the capacity utilization of the overdrive device continuously rise.

——“Executing Jump drive”——

“And so we arrived..... Ahhh, how should I say this? There’s a part of me who got used to this nauseous feeling.”

It’s a sensation similar to dizziness. As Tarou slumps down while having himself wrapped in a sheet, Maar throws a pack of drink toward him while saying “Drink this”.

“Thanks. Anyway, how’s the coordinates? How far did we slip from it?”

“There’s not really much of a problem this time as well. We’re 32,000 kilometers on point from the old beacon’s position. Seriously though, the calculating ability of you guys never fail to amaze me”

“Fufu, please don’t praise me that much, miss Maar. It seems like Koume will soon be famous in the Milky Way as a calculating woman.”

“No, that ain’t a praise, you know? Also, that gap between your looks and personality is really disappointing!!”

Based on Tarou’s standards, Koume is definitely a beauty who holds a vulnerable expression. Maar then glanced over Koume and uttered: “How surprising”.

“So you’re the type of person who based on looks huh. If you stay like that,

you're gonna be fooled by some bad woman one day."

"Ugh.....but well, I must say, I don't mind being fooled by a pretty girl like you"

"Hah?! Wha-..... A-are you an idiot?!"

"Aren't you the one who's easy to fool?" is what Tarou thought but he decided to keep silent. He learned an important lesson while being affiliated with her and that is, to not say any unnecessary things.

"Anyway, I won't do such things to you..... Now then, we'll be jumping quickly. Where's the next station again?"

As if trying to hide her blush, she puckered her lips and murmured as she began doing the settings of the overdrive.

The Plum that Tarou and the group were riding was still being followed by some several transport ships. While wondering how were those guys able to find them, they continue to advance to the dangerous area where communications with the central are ceased. On the way, the scan radar caught some signs of WIND but the group decided to ignore it. Their ship is currently packed with cargoes and there is a possibility that a slight damage may lead to a major loss.

"This area is still pretty crowded..... Even though it's practically a state of war, merchants are really tough people after all."

While having a connecting flight on the stargate, which is meant for long-distance jumps, they also have stopped in several stations. Even though the people in it are surrounded by a strict and heavy atmosphere, they still continue their economic activities vigorously. While Tarou and the group were being bombarded with questions in regards to the central, they continued to sell their goods that were loaded in the ship.

And when they're about halfway to the Alpha star system, Tarou and the group received a communication line when they were about to run the ship.

——"General line TS-3323"——

Short strings of texts were displayed in Tarou's BISHOP. He knew from the

letters TS that it's a transport ship. In other words, a shipping craft and apparently, its source seems to be from the ship that was following them.

"More like a train stalker to me, rather than a transport ship"

Tarou felt irritated towards them who's always in the scan results. Koume then responds to his whisper

"Ohh, that was smooth, mister Teirow. Do you need some cushion?"

"You really know some a bunch of useless stuff!!"

After his retort to Koume who's currently displaying a smug expression, Tarou looked in front of him and turns the communication on while complaining: "Just what is this about?"

"Hello, nice to meet you. This is TS-3323. I'm the representative of the Speed Carrier Corp., Liza Francoise. Can I have a minute? I have something I'd like to discuss."

Along with the voice, a video signal was also sent to the monitor. It shows a woman who's in her mid-twenties wearing a headset. The female director has a blond hair tied in a side tail; a hairstyle that Tarou isn't convinced with (Because for him, it's a hairstyle for young people). His eyes met a blue ones in the monitor when he responded "Aye". The lips painted in red then continued

"I've heard a couple of rumors about you. A new famous corp., Rising Sun. Well known for its rapid growth and the fact that it transport goods anywhere when asked. Whether is there's a WIND or a mafia."

Liza narrowed her eyes at Tarou as if apprising him. " 's that so", Tarou replied.

"That reputation is somewhat awkward. I'd like to whisper words of love to a beautiful girl like you, but unfortunately, I don't like being chased."

Tarou aloofly replied. Maar who was listening couldn't take it anymore and let out a sigh, lightly hitting Tarou's head. Surprised by what she had seen, Liza elegantly laugh.

"You guys are really interesting, just like what Dean said."

Tarou silently turned his gaze from Liza to Koume. For a brief moment, Koume

looked up and answer “There is no person that I know of who goes by that name, mister Teirow”

“Do you still remember the empire soldier that you met in the Alba star system?”

“In the Alba star system..... Ahhhh~, you mean the soldier from that time. By the way, can I discard this communication record? It’s not something you can talk about here anyway.”

“Yes, of course. I do not intend to talk about any more of that. Neither myself nor my brother or you will benefit from it. What I want to talk about is something more important.”

while thinking about this important talk that Liza is talking about, Tarou also whispered in his mind: “A guy with a beautiful sister is my enemy.”. He then came up with a reply afterward.

“For a merchant, there is nothing more important than a talk involving credits. So, what is it? Speed Carrier seems to be a pretty big company, what does such company need from us?”

Tarou asked while looking at Liza’s company records that Koume searched during the time she was silent. It mentioned that the company has 220 employees. If you’re going to scale it, it’s nearly four times of Rising Sun. And in proportion to that, their sales are pretty decent too. Frankly speaking, they are their rival company.

“Though I’m glad for being highly recognized, I wouldn’t say that our company is big with just having employees around 200. Although it’s a different story if you’ll add another zero to that.”

Once Liza momentarily cuts her sentence, she puts her drink in her mouth as if trying to show off. Tarou continues to send Liza a glare while watching her do so.

“there’s no need to be cautious. I apologize for following you around. Also, I have no relation to the army. I just wanted to make sure whether the rumors were true or not.”

Tarou swallowed his urge to ask “for what?” as he waits for her to continue.

After staring at Tarou for a while, “I have a proposal to offer” is what she said next.

“what do you think of forming a union with us? We have ships for transports while you have one for defense. I’m sure it will benefit both parties.”

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“Union, eh?... I feel like we might disagree over interest rights so I would like to decline, if possible.”

Tarou didn't really know much about forming an union but he liked the idea of doing as he liked. He didn't want anything obstructing that.

“Isn't that what the contract is for – to stop something like that beforehand? It's not like you have to come to a decision right now, I will be happy if you were to just listen to what I have to say. Because I think you'll surely be interested if you do”

After snorting at Liza's voice, Tarou lowered the transmission volume to zero for once.

“Or so she's saying but, what do you think? Should we collaborate with a stalker?”

“Well, can't really answer when I don't properly understand what she's talking about. However, it is quite rare for such a big organization to say 'let's form an union' rather than 'join the union' or something along that line. Judging from her way of speaking, she spoke on equal terms. Let's put aside the 'stalker' for now.” Maar said, putting a finger to her lips.

Judging from what she said, Tarou decided he could at least listen to what Liza was saying and turned the volume up again.

“Alright. Then, let me hear what you have in mind. What kind of a collaboration set up are you expecting?”

Liza shifted her gaze hearing Tarou's voice.

“Right. How about a third stage of confidentiality in the form of a business partnership? You get 35% of policy deciding rights and rights of usage of shared resource and we get 65%. Of course, no meddling in each others' companies. Also, there's a right to refusal too.”

“Hmm... Koume, what's this third stage of confidentiality?”

“Yes, Mister Teirow. The third stage requires confidentiality for 50 years after withdrawing from the union. It is very powerful.”

“I see... What are the merits, demerits you can think of?”

““Our merit would be the military prowess you possess. Considering the recent state of affairs, it is extremely attractive.””

“There are others who possess warships too, ya know?”

““Teirow-san, I would be happy if you were to stop making light of us. Certainly, there are many co-ops which possess a warship, but when you talk about being able to use those warships properly, the matter is different. Cooperations which bought warships recently can’t possibly hope to properly use them. And besides, my elder brother also said this, that ‘that man has surely received specialized training and probably possesses high level of skill’.””

“Ah, that reminds me, he saw the records of the ship, eh?... Well, I got that part. Please continue.”

Tarou was by no means making light of them but he realized he probably lost his cool more than he had thought. As if to pull herself together again, Liza cleared her throat and continued.

““As for our demerit... right. I guess it would be how small our joint usage will be. To be honest, till the union gets on track, we will probably be on the red.””

“Either you make a joint base or buy a ship, we would be completely relying on you, after all.”

““Yes, that’s right. And that will also be your merit. I also think there are more techniques and information we can offer. Do you possess transportation for fresh food? Are you not interested in transporting precision machines or razor metals?””

“I see... That’s quite attractive.”

Hearing Tarou’s words, Liza said ‘Then,’ full of expectations but was stopped by Tarou’s ‘But,’

“Personally, I still feel like we are giving more here.”

““Oh, and why is that?””

“Hm, do you really not understand?”

““Yes, I would be happy if you were to enlighten me.””

Tarou grabbed the flexible monitor’s rim tightly and brought it close to him.

““It’s because we’re putting our lives on the line here, Miss Francois. You can’t even understand that, when you are leading 200 men yourself?””

The atmosphere froze. Liza had a wrinkle on her forehead and her lips shook. Maar, who was beside, opened her mouth to say something but then gave up.

“Oouf, wh-what is it, Maar-san? You’re too close.”

Putting her chin on the back of the seat Tarou was on, she glanced into the monitor. Her position was such that she was barely not visible to the other side. ‘Do continue’ Maar said.

While her perfume tickled Tarou’s nose, he noticed that her mouth had formed a U shape.

“I don’t really know what’s up but it seems like you’re in a good mood... Umm, and as such, I guess we will be breaking off this conversation here. Well then.”

Tarou had very much realized that he was speaking in a harsh way due to their impression of a stalker. And thinking that, he knew this talk was also over and was about to cut the line when,

““Wait... I admit... that we were the ones looking down on you. Besides, I haven’t heard your counter-suggestion yet. Aren’t you being too hasty to finish this negotiation here?””

Liza’s voice had a trace of anger in it but she didn’t let them feel it. Although Tarou was impressed by her will, he had no intention of advancing this negotiation.

“Well, yeah, sorry for being harsh... Hmm, counter-proposal, eh? We will have 51% rights over policy decision and assets usage and you will have 49%. If you can accept this, I will agree.”

It was an insensible condition no matter how you looked at it.

“Hey, Teirow-san. Do you really think we would accept that condition? Even if I were to agree, other members will oppose it.”

“Then, isn’t it your job to pacify them?”

The two locked eyes with each other through the monitors. After a few seconds of silence which felt like minutes, Liza said ‘Could we have some time to think?’. Tarou nodded and decreased the transmission volume.

“Fuiii, discussing really is tiring.”

“Good work, Mister Teirow. Even still, Miss Liza sure has strong willpower. It wouldn’t be weird to lose your temper if a lower ranked person talked to you like that.”

“Eh, it was that bad?”

“Well, to be honest, you were pretty scary. Although I won’t deny that you might have not been somewhat uncool.”

“No, I can’t understand what you’re saying one bit. But, really...? Well, it’s that, see? The thought of you yourself being at a safe place while ordering someone to be at danger is itself the worst, right? No matter how big they are, they would be holding the right to decide as well.”

‘True’ Maar replied to Tarou. She must have also thought that the negotiations were over, and went to her own seat and started recalculating the overdrive. Tarou also stood up wondering if he could help out with something when the line connected again.

“‘Teirow-san, your previous condition, we will accept it.’”

Tarou and Maar’s mouth opened wide. ‘Are you sane?’ asked Tarou to which Liza replied, ‘Do I look like I am not?’.

“‘Thanks to you, we cut 25% of the speed carriers. Ah, don’t worry about them, though. We will handle the cost and after all, we will be starting up a new different company. But, since I have done this far—’”

And after giving a radiant smile, she continued again,

“‘Please take responsibility, alright, Teirow-san?’”

The only thing Tarou was able to do was to give a stiff, dried-up smile.

After that, while heading towards the alpha station, Tarou and the others progressed talks with Liza about the trades. Although they are in the same union, it doesn't change the fact that they are from different companies so they settled with half-half profits from shared trades.

The two cooperations had started their efforts for joint coordination with each other by boarding each others' ships, chatting on the stations, having as much interaction as they could. Even though they worked in the same field, their techniques differed greatly and so, even sharing information like this was a big merit.

"What exactly is this map?!! So you guys had a connection with the army, after all!!"

Liza was most surprised by Tarou's specially-made network map. As she had misunderstood that she was betrayed by that, it took Tarou quite some trouble to clear up.

"So many secret paths the other companies don't know of... This is the danger territory? What is this code? Hey, could you tell me a bit more? I will pay as much as you want."

In the current situation, when travelling through stargate, relying on the beacon has become unstable, it could be said that the existence of a precise network map was like a treasure. Where and how should one cross a road to be relatively safer? Which way is the shortcut? Where is the star system which will be linked soon? — because such information could be read from the map.

"Na, if need to I will send you the information but spare me giving to to you right away, will ya? Besides, it could turn out pretty bad if it leaks."

There was a time when Tarou had thought of publishing this personal map to the public. It was because he was feeling guilty of having the safety to himself.

However, such worries were also turned upside down with one word from Koume.

"Mister Teirow, I think the army also possesses such a map but even then the map hasn't been made public. There are many reasons I can think of but the

biggest one is probably because of the influence it will have if it leaks. Mister Teirow, have you ever thought of a situation where the Wynds get a hold of this map?”

A big reason why the empire has been able to hold public order is due to the battlefield being limited to near the stargate. Also because the army can use the neural network as an intermediary to communicate and coordinate.

Just as Koume says, if this map was to be used by the Wynds, everywhere on the borderline would turn into a battlefield. Fighting at an isolated area is nothing less than a nightmare and it would also scatter the forces even more.

It is evident that the Wynds are using the beacons for stargate, judging from the sequence of events but depending on the situation, they could destroy all beacons on the borderline—severing communication, which is equal to physically blocking everything off. If that happens, then all the areas except the central area would be annihilated. The harm would rise from a 100 million to a trillion.

““Oi, Teirow. Try looking up front. Do you see that blue-ish nebula? Look underneath it, there’s a big light.

10 days after departing from the delta. From the stargate which was ahead, a voice signal was sent through the communication device.

““That is the alpha star system. We have finally arrived. And if it’s according to the information—”

Tarou squinted at the monitor. The countdown for the last jump had started and he prepared himself.

““It seems that there is a huge fight going on. Let’s capture the doctor and make a run for it.”

Chapter 34

When a signal appeared on the radar's screen, Squall, who was guarding the station, rejoiced, the imperial army finally came to their rescue... And his disappointment was just as big, when he saw the identification signal of a merchant ship.

"It's hopeless, this rural station is done for."

Over 100 WIND ships, or 'filth clusters' as Squall prefers calling them, have already been spotted. Although the station took minimal damage so far, it's shield is being depleted, and it's only a matter of time before it collapses.

"Damn it!! Just what kind of grudge do they have towards people!?" Squall shouted at a WIND while manipulating a 20 meter tall steel giant with his BISHOP, its hull was made with various mismatched parts, similarly to a WIND.

"This is the eighth ship already, one more is nothing!" The giant aimed its rifle at the enemy's engine and shot 4 beams in quick succession.

"I won't die in a place like this!" Squall retreated after confirming that the WIND stopped its activity once the engine was hit. With cold sweat dropping from his whole body, Squall moved back to the station.

"Congratulations on 8 ships squall, you can expect some rewards." A female voice said through a communication device.

"I'm coming back, how many people are still there?" While Squall was scouting the area with a small range scan, a sudden 'Locked' warning appeared in red in front of his monitor. Immediately after, a beam passed right in front of his eyes.

"Damn, these guys are shooting everywhere!" Squall shouted at the communication device.

His companion's replied calmly though. "Isn't that obvious Squall? We're almost done here, so keep them busy for a while longer."

A red WIND ship got closer to the station, it was several times bigger than Squall's steel giant, but he aimed his rifle at it regardless. "I won't be defeated

by that... Bella, how many are left?"

"Wait a bit... 57 people left, and 10 ships. Be proud of yourself, half of our members are gone."

"Still a long way to go, I won't be satisfied until there are 0 left. Wait, what was that 'bibi' sound just now?"

"Ah, that's from the ship that arrived a while ago, they are trying to establish some communication, but they don't seem to realize there is a jammer stopping it."

Squall turned his face to the direction Bella signaled him to, and he could see a vague image of a ship. "Why is it coming here? Are they trying to rescue us?"

"Is there any fool on this whole galaxy that would come to the aid of a Mafia?" Bella retorted.

"Just let me have some hope!" Squall finished reloading his gun and jumped into open space again, then carefully aimed and shot his rifle at a WIND that was already wounded by Bella.

"Who gets the kill this time? We split it half for each?" He asked.

"Well, any way is fine for me... Did you notice though? That ship is coming in your direction." She replied.

"What? Really? It might really be a rescue then, I should pray to God more from now on." Squall once again turned his camera towards the ship, and started blinking his eyes at the sight.

"They're firing!? From that range? What kind of crazy reinforcements are those?" That ship shot 8 beams, hitting 2 of the WIND and piercing their hull easily.

"That's a large cannon, isn't it cruiser sized? I wonder if we're on the same business then..." She commented.

"No way, I bet it's a detachment from the army, they would need to be an idiot to be able to hit a beam from that distance and enter the military or a security company." Squall replied.

"Security companies don't do anything that doesn't give them profit, as for

the military... Is there any important person on this station?" She asked.

"I don't know, I would like to make contact with them if possible, there is still a capsule left, right?" He answered.

"Whoa, are you mad!? You didn't ask that!" She shouted, he didn't reply though. Instead, he jumped into the docks, aimed the capsule launcher at the ship, put the necessary information on it and fired.

"Please reach... Damn it!" The capsule moved too close to a WIND and was destroyed, he readjusted its aim and tried again.

"Please come back, there are way too few capsules left!" Bella begged him, but he shot it with all his prayers, a WIND's beam was fortunately diverted, so the capsule moved towards the ship.

"What information did you send? It wasn't your profile, right?" She asked him.

"It would be better to die from an explosion than to send that. I sent a scan of the station's surroundings, if they're smart they'll shoot at an enemy with a jammer." While Squall talked to Bella, the capsule got closer to the ship, and when it reached a certain distance, it dismantled and started spreading the information to the surroundings.

"Did they get it? Damn it! I was careless!" As soon as the capsule finished opening, a WIND's beam pierced through it. Squall immediately got ready to get the next capsule, but...

"Wait." Bella's voice stopped his movement. "Did you see that?" Differently from usual, her voice was shaking.

"I did." He replied. "Even though I didn't do anything, the enemy was blown off... We'd better be careful of whatever did that." Squall carefully looked at the surroundings. The cruiser was still there, and shot a beam at a nearby WIND.

"What!? Just what did they do!?" In a completely different direction than the beam was shot at, a WIND had its hull easily pierced.

"Well, you saw it too, I wonder if it's a new military weapon." Bella said.

"I don't care if it's a new weapon, magic or even a miracle by God, I'm happy

for as long as it breaks the WIND. Did you see how many of the ones with jammer got hit—

Keep trying to make contact!!” He immediately let go of the capsule launcher and held his rifle again.

“What? Is something coming? Debris?” Bella asked while Squall got into the open again. He stopped moving and paid attention to the strange reaction captured from the motion sensor.

“You surprised me Squall, going out in the open like that. But... Is that the thing that killed the WIND?” She asked.

“A ballistic weapon? Don’t joke with me, WINDs would incinerate those with their beams.” He replied.

“I understand why you say that, you’re a pretty smart guy and knows how to use your head. But we’re talking about a monster that destroyed a WIND from that absurd distance, maybe they could actually pull it off?” She said.

Squall was about to reply, but then turned his attention to the sensor, it detected a high speed object flying from the ship’s direction. The object was really slow if compared to a beam, but still had a speed of 20 km/sec.

A human’s ship would probably incinerate it with debris destroyer beams, but the multiple thin beams of the WINDs would probably miss it.

“... Absurd.” A single bullet piercing through the hulls of a WIND? “Why don’t they avoid it? They dodge beams, but not this? This is ridiculous!!”

“Well, it’s the new weapon of the army, even if it’s a little strange, I’m sure there is some guiding mechanism on it. In any case, there is still quite a bit of work to be done!!” Bella’s voice raised at the same time an enemy signal near her disappeared, so she took down another WIND. He also decided to return to battle.

“Alright, let’s go all out!!” Bella’s voice resounded through the communication device. “Got it!” Squall replied and started shooting his rifle again, he didn’t intend to stop until there was no ammo left.

“I got the last of the jammers! The lines should connect now!!” Squall

shouted.

“It’s connecting!” Bella confirmed.

“E-excuse me! Is professor Aldimof with you!?” A young man’s voice came from the communicator, Squall was puzzled by that bright voice, but replied, “Aah... A professor-” but was cut by Bella.

“If it’s about a professor, there is one, but we’re in a bitch of a pinch right now, so help us out a bit?” Her voice covered his, but he didn’t blame her because of the circumstances.

“Got it. By the way, that robot is so cool! There is someone inside it isn’t there? This is so awesome!” The young man’s voice was completely devoid of tension.

Squall tried containing his usual irritation and replied curtly. “I’ll let you look at it later.”

Chapter 35

“E35 and E52 shot down, E17 silenced. The jamming has reduced in power, so the information we received seems to be correct.” Koume said.

I made a guts pose and exclaimed in a small voice, “Alright!” then raised my voice to ask a question. “How much longer until we reach the enemies?”

“We-well... About one more minute. That said... What was that?” Maar answered while pointing at several WINDs that were just destroyed.

I laughed a bit before proudly replying. “Just as you saw, a ballistic weapon is still usable, the shields don’t deflect it so the bullets deal damage directly to the armor.”

Maar however, shook her head. “Not that, the bullet is a guided weapon, it’s making some complicated movements to dodge the beams, but what kind of sensor does that? Just how many things did you cram on it?”

“No, I can’t put much on it because of the size... Rather, it’s just a torpedo, you don’t need to be this stingy.” I answered.

“Is that so... Then how much does each bullet cost?” She asked, which made me give a dry laugh in reply. Maar didn’t give up and put more pressure on me though. “So...? What kind of mechanism did you put on the railgun?”

“Uhn... It’s not something very complex, I just put a small shield and a device that allows me to control the bullet directly through the BISHOP.” I answered, which made Maar give me a dumbfounded and unladylike ‘Haa?’.

“Wa-wait a bit, are you controlling all those bullets in real time!?” Maar answered after recovering herself, which I replied with a smug ‘Roger!’.

At that point even Koume seemed astonished. “Mr. Teirow, you’re right now, E44 shot down, right now not only controlling 17 bullets, but also the ship’s movement, all in high speed and at real time, you do understand this much, right?”

“One just fell though, so there should only be 16 left.” I replied.

“That’s plain rude, Mr Teirow. Don’t you have anything else to say?” To Koume’s incomprehensible words, I could only reply with a ‘What?’, she then continued. “Not ‘what’ mister Teirow, a normal person’s brain would’ve fried from trying to do all this, just what is wrong with your processing capabilities?”

“But even if you say that... Isn’t this normal? Ah, the conversation is distracting me though,” I answered.

“... Amazing. Though I think I now know what your gift is.” Maar replied.

This took me by surprise, I could only reply with a “Seriously!?” before turning my attention back to the torpedoes as I got 4 more ships down.

“Perhaps.” She said as she used the beam turrets to open some space for our ship. “Judging from the current situation, your parallel processing capabilities are in such an absurd level that it’s almost a joke, I wouldn’t believe it if I hadn’t seen for myself.” Maar said, which made me gaze at her with a triumphant look.

“I’m sorry, could you repeat it a bit louder? I didn’t hear it because your tone was too small.” I asked.

“... I just said that for a long time I thought you would be better off dead.” She replied.

“What do you mean with for a long time!? You didn’t really think of me like that, right!?” I hurriedly said.

“Was that not clear enough, Mr. Teirow? Should I explain in detail then?” Koume added.

“Please stop! Say no more!” The shock from what those two were saying was too great, so I focused on the BISHOP to run away from them. The collision countdown of one of the torpedoes was dangerously approaching 0, so I switched it’s path a bit to the right.

Immediately after, a WIND’s beam was shot at the place it was previously in, and then I turned it to the left to fix the trajectory, though more beams kept on being released one after the other.

I started the ‘Purupuru Avoidance Program’ and started the bullet’s shield to block a few beams while dodging most of them manually, it felt similar to one

of those games in which I needed to avoid barrages of projectiles, though I was doing it with 6 bullets at the same time.

Focusing fully on the BISHOP and only feeling half-conscious of my surroundings, I started the 'Problem Solving Program'. Beams getting closer. Lock On Deactivated. Bullet Approaching Target. No abnormalities transmitted to the ship, Problem Solving Program terminated.

As the programs terminated, I breathed a sigh of relief. Controlling the bullets was quite taxing and the forceful end of the program meant that it destroyed one of the jammers, so now I'm going to take a conservative approach. I don't know how long this battle will last, and those torpedoes are outdated weapons with limited ammunition, so it's better to rely on the beams instead.

"Koume, do you think we will be able to communicate soon?" I asked, Koume told me to wait a little while she checked, so I decided to play around with the monitor on the meantime, zooming in on the weapon that is fighting at the station.

"Wow, what's that!? A robot? Or even a Mobile Suit? It's a bit sluggish though... Allan, do you know what is that thing at the station?" I wondered.

"That's Stardust, a Humanoid Assault Drone, or just HAD for short, you don't know of it?" He replied.

"HAD, huh? It's so cool... Is it expensive?" I asked.

"Depends on what you base your comparison on? It's expensive if you compare it to drones, but not that much if compared to a spaceship. It needs to be piloted from within though, so it's not adopted by the military and ended up as an exclusively private weapon." His answer made sense, and explained why I didn't know the weapon, the knowledge overridden in my brain is exclusively military, so it's natural that I don't know about a civilian weapon.

"Is there any particular talent necessary to pilot it?" I said.

"You don't need any particular gift, but there is the necessity of projecting your consciousness on the whole weapon's body with the BISHOP, and this definitely needs some talent." Was his reply.

"So it's like moving the robot as if it was your whole body... Seems pretty cool

and does have some advantages, but isn't it dangerous?" I asked.

"Indeed, the biggest disadvantage is that people need to be in it. The military's unmanned drones excel in everything except reaction speed, so there is no need for someone that specializes in controlling this kind of weapon with the BISHOP, it's better to have versatile troops instead." He answered.

"I see, the imperial army already has carriers that can hold hundreds of ships, so it doesn't need this kind of thing in the first place, using drones that can carry jamming devices or other similar things makes more sense." I nodded to myself.

"You got it boss, the empire's basic tactic is to crush enemies with overwhelming numbers after all. By the way, it's a bad idea to carry one of those in our ship, it needs eight people for maintenance and there is also the fuel consumption to worry about." He replied, however...

"Hehe, it would be nice to have that cool robot in our ship, wouldn't it?" Allan's voice barely reached my mind as I already had my mind filled with thoughts of the HAD.

At that moment, Koume's voice resounded through the control room. "Mr. Teirow, the WINDs that had jammers were wiped out, we should be able to establish communication with the locals now."

I silently nodded as the monitor zoomed in on the humanoid weapon, it seems to have a thick armor with complex mechanisms. I wondered if I could pilot it, though I don't think it would be easy to handle sudden fast movements, I'd probably be out in 5 minutes.

The Emergency line DRN – 001 became available and I opened it after confirming the location it came from through the BISHOP, I breathed a sigh of relief once the voice of the HAD's pilot reached my ear and I naturally became more cheerful.

I'm not sure why, but I'm sure he is great.

Reference 1:

Something like this:

<https://cdn.discordapp.com/attachments/396281108737556500/396282719224>

Reference 2: to Mobile Suit Gundam anime series.